

The 360° Monthly Newsletter

South Fulton Fire Rescue

Fire Prevention Month 2018

Fire Prevention Month 2018 was full of many different events throughout the City. All of the crews did an outstanding job with their events. Overall, we participated in five presentations for day cares, five presentations for the elementary schools, one career day, and two fall festivals. The children always enjoyed seeing the fire engines and the bunker gear. Thank you to all of the firefighters that played the part of the friendly firefighter for the demonstrations.



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Quotes of the month:

- Remember to “Close Before You Doze” and teach your family to do the same
- Got Passion?
- There is no tomorrow without today..
- Don’t become so focused on making change that you miss the change you have been making!
- If you aren’t getting better, you are getting worse
- Preparation is the only free pass
- Those who won’t will doubt that you can



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Close Before You Doze

Starting with Fire Prevention Month the Fire Education Personnel have been showing the citizens the linked video on the dramatic difference that sleeping with your bedroom door closed can have in case of a fire. The reactions from youth and adults combined have been varying but still impressive. This is the newest initiative that fire departments across the United States have been pushing and it is one that the Education Department is supporting as well.

Feel free to watch the video and share it with your friends and loved ones as well. Making sure you have working smoke alarms is the first step and knowing to sleep with the door closed is the second step to a fire safe household.



<https://youtu.be/bSP03BE74WA>

Newest Member of the Team

October 1st, we welcomed the newest member of the South Fulton Fire Rescue team to fill the vacant position of Fire Education Specialist. Rachel Benoit joins us and brings with her over three years of experience as a firefighter/EMT. Rachel has hit the ground running in the position and has been working hard to make sure the stations had the materials needed for their events. If anyone needs any materials for events please let her know.

Please send all photos and materials requests to Rachel. If anyone in the community asks about the smoke alarm program or asks for prevention or education outreach please refer them to the Fire Education Division.

Rachel.benoit@cityofsouthfultonga.gov
470-809-7548

“It isn’t called a vision if nobody can see where we are going”

Pointer Ridge HOA Fall Festival

E5 (Langston, Hurt, Reyes) attended the event where we gave out Firefighter hats, pencils, Firefighter bookmarks, and Firefighter badge stickers to the kids. We also gave them a tour of the fire engine. The pointer ridge Hoa festival had food vendors, 2 fit to Quit dance group (picture in pink), a DJ and a motorcycle bike crew in attendance.



Operation Save A Life

On Tuesday October 9th, WSB-TV Channel 2 hosted a luncheon for members of local fire departments to promote Operation Save A Life. WSB-TV teamed up with local fire departments, Kidde, The Home Depot and attorney Ken Nugent for the 2018 Operation Save a Life fire safety awareness campaign. Five thousand smoke alarms donated by Kidde to the local departments. South Fulton accepted 120 smoke alarms from the donation. Chief Few was one of the speakers for the event.

In addition to the donated smoke alarms, South Fulton received an order of over 150 smoke alarms that had been purchased over

the summer. These alarms are now available for the public to request. At this time we do not have any Carbon Monoxide alarms but we will hopefully have some in the near future.

A Smoke Alarm Blitz is in the planning stages as well.



Trunk or Treat

Staff from A Philip Randolph Elementary and Cliftondale Elementary requested the presence of the firefighters for Trunk or Treat for their students on Halloween. Personnel from Engine 13 and Engine 3 were joined by Fire Education Personnel as candy, pencils, and bookmarks were passed out. The children had fun going to all of the stations to collect the goodies. We saw all kinds of costumes represented (but were slightly disappointed as we didn't see anyone dressed as a

firefighter this year). Great fun was had by all.



City Council News

At the City Council Meeting on October 23rd, the request to purchase one new aerial ladder truck and two new engines was approved. The new Engines will match the current Spartan engines already in service.

The City Council will re-visit the possibilities for Station 1 at the next meeting. They wanted two more weeks to think about the options of renovating or rebuilding.



Firefighter Jones Receives Award

Firefighter Javante Jones was nominated for the 300 Club of Atlanta award by his Captain, Captain Nikolas Cooper. He was inducted into the prestigious club in October. He was nominated for the award after his actions that went beyond the call of duty and were carried out in a City far from home. Jones was recognized for the heroic actions that he took after the tragic shooting in Jacksonville, FL that occurred during a Madden video game tournament on August 26th.

Jones rendered aid to a victim of the shooting instead of continuing to look for his cousin that was at the event. This dedication to the public in the face of adversity was the reason for his nomination. Chief Few was present for the award ceremony and was able to get a picture with Firefighter Jones and Captain Cooper.

Congratulations Firefighter Jones!



Around
town...



Preparing for Promotion

Most of us would like to be promoted in our careers, but do we prepare ourselves enough for the promotional board when the chance comes? Preparing for promotion should be a continuous process during your career. It is probably too late to start preparing when the announcement comes out.

There are several things that you need to be doing early on in your career to ensure that when the time comes you are ready. First of all, are you qualified for the position you want to apply for? Take the time and know what the qualifications are for the different ranks and start obtaining those qualifications. If you have to have a certification for Captain and you wait until the promotional announcement comes out odds are you will not have time to complete the process. Prepare for the rank above what you intend to apply for and you should be covered. There are multiple articles on tips for promotional boards and they all pretty much cover the same thing, preparation.

Look sharp. That old saying that first impressions are important is very true. I have sat on several promotional boards and when a candidate comes thru the door looking sharp it says a lot. If you wear your uniform make sure it fits and that it is pressed. Don't look like you slept in it. If you choose to wear civilian attire, business clothes are best. A nice pressed shirt and tie always looks good. I would leave the jeans and t-shirts for home.

Be professional. Most promotion boards have a table or desk and a chair for the candidate and the board members will be sitting in front of you. It is acceptable for you to introduce yourself and shake hands with the board members or if you choose not to, stand by the chair and wait to be told to be seated. When you sit down, don't slouch. The military has a "sitting at the position of attention". Sit with your back straight and place your hands on your legs. This will keep you from talking with your hands. When you address the panel say yes sir and yes ma'am. Remember you are letting the panel members know that you are a professional that is ready to take on the next level.

Listen to the question. Often, interviewers will ask a multiple-part question specifically to evaluate a candidate's listening skills. *Example:* A firefighter under your command is experiencing problems with alcohol. What are your responsibilities as an officer, to whom would you speak and what follow-up actions would you take?

Candidates will often hear the first part of a multiple-part question and immediately begin formulating an answer in their head, ignoring the remaining parts of the question. The candidate may deliver an outstanding answer to the first part of the question, but that represents only 33% of the answer. The result is a failing overall score.

One key to ensuring your success in answering multiple-part questions is to ask for the question to be repeated after you believe you have answered it. While the interviewer is repeating the question, you have the opportunity to mentally review whether your answer matches all aspects of the question. If it has, indicate that you're ready for the next question. If not, thank the interviewer, and continue giving your answer, addressing those dimensions of the question not previously answered.

Know your SOP's and city policies and procedures. How will you answer questions that are based on policy and procedure if you don't know them? You must have an understanding of how the department and city operates to formulate your answer to personnel questions. *Example:* Explain the progressive discipline policy





that the City of South Fulton follows. It will be very hard to give an answer to this question if you do not understand the policy.

Engage your brain before you engage your mouth. Acknowledge the question and then take a moment to formulate a cohesive answer. If permitted, make a few notes of key words that will jog your memory while you’re answering the question. Too often, candidates will substitute quantity for quality—a potentially deadly mistake for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is that the interviewers are generally adept at seeing it and score accordingly. A few moments of silence does not result in losing points; over-talking an answer does.

Answer questions as if you are already in the position you’re seeking. One of the fundamental and pervasive thoughts in an interviewer’s mind is “Do I want this person working for me?” At the end of the day, interviewers are going to score candidates more successfully when they present themselves in a way that demonstrates a readiness to assume the responsibilities for the position being sought. It’s not presumptuous to respond to a question with “As a (insert rank here), I would …” Rather, it signals that you’re knowledgeable about the set of responsibilities that attends a specific rank.

Engage the interviewers. Make eye contact and look at all of the interviewers, regardless of who asked the question. This is essential because it signals confidence on your part and reflects your ability to function under stressful situations. There will be instances when interviewers will not look at you—they may be looking down while taking notes. Don’t be distracted by this. Similarly, don’t place too much emphasis on the body language of the interviewers. Effective interviewers are adept at not telegraphing their perceptions about your candidacy, even if they personally disagree with your opinion.

How many times have you heard “I don’t know why I didn’t get promoted, I been doing this job for years”? Just doing the job is not preparing for promotion. It is up to you to be prepared, nobody is just going to walk up to you and say you been doing this along time so here is a promotion, it takes work. Start now and when the opportunity for promotion comes up, you will be ready.
Stay safe; stay smart

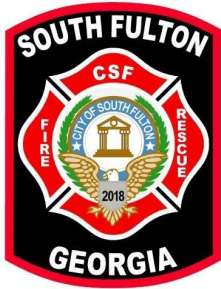
Captain Richard Blackmon



South Fulton Fire Rescue

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"Service to all, Second to none"

"To provide fire, life safety, and support services that are relationship focused and results oriented."

There is no Tomorrow Without Today

"Somewhere along the way we became so concerned with the future that we forgot about the present. Although planning is essential to success, we have become so inundated with what will happen next that we frequently ignore what is happening right now. From strategies and tactics to box alarm assignments to the mentality we instill in our recruits, we have replaced the importance of living in the moment with wishing it away.

When we become blinded by the next thing we tend to overlook what is occurring right now. There is no reason for a recruit to be worrying about a resume that grooms them to be the fire chief. There is no advantage to being ready for the next job if it takes away resources from properly dealing with the one at hand. There is no point in fighting your whole career if you never take the time to

enjoy what you are working for. There is no tomorrow without today!

Make sure you take a breath now and then and take in what is happening while it is going on. It is sad to see how many of us become so enamored with succession planning, resume building, promotional aspirations, and waiting for a day or situation that may never come that we fail to enjoy all the wonderful things this job has to offer. Take the time to enjoy the sights, smells, emotions, and satisfaction the job has to offer. Appreciate people while they are here. Make memories. Have fun. Smile. Don't show up, be present. Experience the job instead of simply doing it.

Of all professions, we should appreciate how finite life really is and drown ourselves in all

our profession has to offer instead of simply treading through our careers. Don't wish it all away..."

Courtesy of The Fire Inside

